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PROGRAM TITLE *WILLIS TOWERS WATSON - 2178005 #1*

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET
(*11:30 PM*)
TIME

(*JANUARY 11, 1985*)
DATE

(*THURSDAY*)
DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" --

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: RANGER SONG.

ANNOUNCER: To bring about adequate conservation and development of our forest resources, we must, first, protect, improve and perpetuate our existing forests, and, second, help to establish new and reestablish old forests, where that is the best use to which the land is suited. That, in a broad way, is what Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are doing on millions of acres within our National Forests, and up in the Pine Cone Ranger District today we find our old friend Ranger Jim Robb and one of his Forest Guards Ernie Knight, on their way to inspect some land where fire and flood have laid waste an area once forested, and where the re-establishment of an old forest will be the job to be undertaken. Here they are --

(SOUND: HORSES WALKING ALONG TRAIN)

JIM: Hub Dolly, puffing a little? Whoa, gal, let's hold it while

ERNIE: All right. Whoa. Spark.

(HORSES STOP)

JIM: Yep. Well, Ernie -- when we get up over that hog-back ahead there, we'll come to Samson's Swallow.

ERNIE: Samson's Swallow!

JIM: Yep That's what the old settlers around here call it. It's a piece of the earth's surface that's just been added to our Pine Cone Ranger District. Ernie, so you'll most likely have plenty of chances to get better acquainted with it from now on.

ERNIE: Is it that land exchange you and Supervisor Ellsworth were working on?

JIM: Yes. We're trading some stumpage for it, so as soon as the exchange is completed it'll be added to the National Forest.

ERNIE: It was part of the lumber company's holdings, wasn't it?

JIM: Yes.

ERNIE: Is it a pretty good-sized tract, Jim?

JIM: Yep. Couple of thousand acres.

ERNIE: That's great. We'll have a bigger and better National Forest.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, it'll be bigger anyhow. - All right, Dolly. - Let's get along, huh?

ERNIE: Giddap, Spore.

(PAUSE)

JIM: Well, Ernie, there's Salmon's Swallow.

ERNIE: Say! My gosh --

JIM: What's the matter, son?

ERNIE: My gosh! Of all the nameless, God-forsaken looking places you ever saw! So this is what we're taking into the Pine Cone District?

JIM: Yep.

ERNIE. Gosh, Jim - we've got the prettiest forest in the region, and now we've gotta have this eyesore in it! Look at it! all washed and bare - there ain't one tree on ten acres.

JIM. Well, we'll have to plant some. - Ernie, we're not taking in this land for its beauty, we're taking on a new job. We're taking on a public responsibility. You see, this area here, - all a better old burn and non-benefiting, - it was a total loss to everybody - to the owners, to the community, to everybody. - This area was worked as life workers, they're not producing, there's no sign of a life community, and life the public's responsibility to give them a chance to work. - So taking that new land into the District means we're taking on a new job. It's not a place it can be used, and put it back to work at once as it can.

ERIE. It's sure going to be a tough job getting this area reforested. Gosh, I'd say we had enough work ahead of us District without taking on this job.

JIM. The Forest Service has never been around to take on much work, Ernie.

ERIE. I guess that's true enough.

JIM. Now that when you got the Civilian Conservation Corps here, had to help us, besides emergency jobs the work, really now, all, we had got right in here on the job, and before you know it, we had got the area reforested during last spring's planting season.

ERNIE:

Yeah, we ought to be able to do it - if it all right

JOHN:

Yep - You can't tell, Ernie - you might still be here
to see the day when this area will be as pretty a green
spot as any on our Forest. I don't a job like this very
challenge you Ernie? Take a raw cure on the face of the
landscape like this - I heal it with a poultice - I grow
growing vegetation - restore to it it's God-given right to
grow trees! It's building for the future Ernie - for a
day when this land can once more serve its right purpose
as a protecting watershed and a producer of useful timber
crops and a place of beauty

ERNIE:

Yes sir! I get it! That's the old Ranger motto

"Greatest Forest Restored" - Well, Jim, you sure are still
a guy full of the old inspiration

JOHN:

(CHUCKLES) Well - Let's go on down to the hollow where
we can study the land some - All right, Ernie (CHUCKS)
Maybe that'll give you a little perspiration

ERNIE:

Okay - Giddap, Spark -

(SOUND OF HORSES)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF HORSES)

ERNIE:

What Spark - Easy now - that's nothing but a loose shoe
or something

JOHN:

Watch it, Ernie - the trail's washed out, ahead there

ERNIE: Yeah - it sure is

JIM: This trail'll have to be fixed up. That's another job
we can put some of the GOC boys on

ERNIE: Yeah. I guess I'd better make a survey right away. Ain't it?

JIM: Yeah. -- Well, here's a good place to rest the horses. Ernie

ERNIE: Yeah -- Whoo. Spark

JIM: Whoo gal -- hold it. Dolly

(HORSES STOP)

ERNIE: Well. So this is Samson's Swallow. Ah

JIM: Yeah

ERNIE: That old pioneers must've been a bit careless with horses

JIM: Well, it wasn't the pioneers that were responsible for this
one. They had a sort of natural sort way of using places
though. It seems to me. This place here -- they used to
call it Spring Hollow -- from all the time ago of that
time to this present time. Most likely. But what was before
old Shanon and fire and flood -- played the devil with
Nature's handiwork. The springs are now all dried up
now

ERNIE: Samson here? -- Sam. It wasn't old Noah and his flood?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) No. It was Samson this time. Noah got his
mind up with floods, they say, but I reckon one thing we
never did was to let a forest fire. This land through
here used to have as nice a stand of pine timber as you
could find. Ernie. Just like on the other side of the
hugback.

ERNEST: Good and good to it.

JIM: Yes. It's lucky the fire came out on the edge of our whole District might've been looking like this. I could see the fire. Ernie. I wasn't here at that time - but I did have a trip through the woods here not long before. You see the first folds to come up in here were the hills to get some grass for those old places they used to make land in the Lower Hills. Pretty soon a little settlement sprung up down at the foot of the hills, and then came a little settlement and had a lot of timber in here, but it was still a great reservoir of timber and they didn't want to scratch it.

ERNEST: That settlement's all gone now, isn't it?

JIM: Yes. You see pretty soon along came old man Hanson. He didn't want his time or purpose was to just get something like so many folks do.

ERNEST: How was that?

JIM: Well, he wanted some way or other to get a homestead here on the hollow and he built himself a cabin and a barn and fence to keep the deer out of his garden.

ERNEST: Was he able to scratch a living out of this country?

JIM: Well, he might've been, if he'd left his country life he found it. - But I don't see. This land is good timber land but it never was meant to be farmed. Anyway, Hanson built himself a cabin as I was saying - he worked hard enough and by'n by he got a few acres in some sort of cultivation. That streak of bare rock stretching up the slope over there was his cornfield.

ERNIE: See, you'd never know it now!

JIM: Nope. Well, pretty soon Samson got ambitious.

ERNIE: How so?

JIM: He cut down about 20 acres of fine virgin timber up above the field there to make more land, - and started burning it up trunk, branch and all, 'cepting a few choice logs he sold to the sawmill.

ERNIE: Wasteful logging!

JIM: Worse than that, Ernie. His fire got away and it burned hot for a week or more.

ERNIE: So that's how the fire started?

JIM: Yep. The settlers herabouts didn't pay much attention to it though at the time. Just let 'er burn. But the new Forest Service - we were a brand new organization then, Ernie - the new Forest Service sent its young rangers in here in time to confine the damage mostly to this basin.

ERNIE: That was sure lucky.

JIM: Yes, it was. Pretty soon, though, when the folks below began to realize that most of what they were getting their living from had gone up in smoke, so to speak, old man Samson came in for a lot of condemnation. He wasn't very popular around there any more.

ERNIE: Well, if that was all, he got off easy at that.

JIM: Nope, Ernie. He got what was coming to him. Seems like Nature has a way of her own that keeps a man from getting away with too much.

ERRIE: How was that?

JIM: Easy now (CHUCKLES) Don't rush me now. Anyhow Samson built a new cabin, and went ahead and plowed up some of the burned-over ground, - but the next few years brought a lot of heavy rain, and with the protective forest cover all gone - nothing to hold back the water or soil - it seemed like the whole country began to dissolve like sugar. They had some bad floods down below, and in some places the soil washed away so bad that there isn't enough left now to plant trees in. See, you can see places like that from here - see that patch over there where it's washed clean down to bedrock?

ERRIE: I'll say! It'll sure be a long time before we can ever get any trees growing there again.

JIM: Yep. A long time. Well sand and gravel and boulders kept washing down over Samson's farm, till he he tried to work the land. He'd be had to give it up anyway, I guess.

ERRIE: What became of old Samson, finally?

JIM: Well one evening there was a bad landslide - and he got swallowed up in it somewhere. Nobody's ever found his yet. And that's why the old settlers around here got so calling this place Samson's Swallow.

ERNIE: I see --- So that's what you meant about Nature settling up accounts in its own way?

JIM: Yep.

ERNIE: What became of his house?

JIM: Well, near as I can figure it out, it was right about here before the slide buried it. (CHUCKLES SOFTLY) I s'pect son you're sittin' right on top of it

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, we got an inkling today of one of the big jobs Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers have and I guess it's a mighty important work to restore old devastated forest land, to bring back barren, depleted lands to useful production in the interest of national welfare. This program comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

VC 3:25 P M

1/28/36

